



# Division 48

## **APA Convention 2010 News Flash:**

### **Solutions to Intergroup Conflict— Constructing Sustainable Webs of Peace Builders**

HELLO AND WELCOME, FELLOW PEACEMAKERS, from your newly designated Division 48 Program Chairperson. I look forward to working with you to make the San Diego APA 2010 Convention spectacularly successful. Please, please contact me ASAP to volunteer to help on the Planning Committee and/or to be a reader and reviewer of papers and posters submitted for consideration.

Let me tell you about our theme: Solutions to Intergroup Conflict—Constructing Sustainable Webs of Peace Builders. **All submissions are due by December 1, 2009.**

Rather than attempting to achieve peace by building a critical mass of like minded people, this year's theme explores the possibility of resolving intergroup conflict and building a sustainable culture of peace by linking persons who are not of common mind and situated in separate social, political and economic spaces. (See John Paul Lederach's *The Moral Imagination*.)

In this spirit we have begun a networking site (Peace Programming for San Diego) that may be used by division members who wish to develop a symposium about a particular theme and by members in other divisions who want to develop joint symposia. For example, we have established a bulletin board for sports psychologists working with us on developing peacefulness, and for community psychologists working on peace issues. These boards are accessed by invitation. If you would like to join a group planning a symposium or begin a group bulletin board please email me at: [SNISENBAUM@PARTNERS.ORG](mailto:SNISENBAUM@PARTNERS.ORG).

Of course, papers addressing many different issues will be appreciated. We would like to see papers, posters, and symposium addressing:

- ◆ The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the expansion of U.S. military bases in other nations.
- ◆ Cooperative behavior and communication for a Culture of Peace: How can psychology be useful for peacebuilders to devise, maintain, and enlist support for a culture that replaces our culture of continual warfare.
- ◆ The psychology of systems and organizations: How might psychologists take advantage of existing or potential structures and governance mechanisms to promote cultures of peace?
- ◆ The psychology of identity and group dynamics involved in resolving intergroup Differences and systemic violence: How can peacebuilders address perceived intergroup boundaries, and mitigate group differences and competitive aggression?
- ◆ The psychology of belief, attitude change, political messages, and shared motivation for a peaceful coexistence: How can we address differences that are perceived as not mutually compatible, and transform them into alliances across groups for the common goal of peace?
- ◆ Peace-building skill sets. What are best evidence practices in Activist Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building Skill Sets?
- ◆ Origins of Conflict and Cooperation in Human Behavior and Culture: What are the human evolutionary, (socio)biological, philosophical, psychological, and spiritual sources for sustained cooperation and peace?
- ◆ Fostering inclusive morality: How may we broaden our moral circle, facilitating inclusive moral reasoning and behavior?

An adjunct project we are considering is a Virtual Peace March (over the worldwide web with fellow psychologists abroad) on the leaders in the capitals of every nuclear-powered nation.

Contact me at any time to volunteer your ideas and energies or with questions:

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